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Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2006-2007 — policy session

Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting

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I. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was held in New York from 26 February to 2 March 2007 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/228 of 20 July 2005. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting held nine meetings. Interactive discussions on the themes of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change were held at the 2nd to 7th meetings, on 26 to 28 February and 1 March 2007. Interactive discussions on the interlinkages and cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation, relevant to the same themes were held at the 7th meeting, on 1 March.

2. The session was opened by the Chairman of the fifteenth session of the Commission, Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah (Qatar), who made an introductory statement.

3. The Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, introduced the reports of the Secretary-General on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on: energy for sustainable development (E/CN.17/2007/2), industrial development (E/CN.17/2007/3), air pollution/atmosphere (E/CN.17/2007/4) and climate change (E/CN.17/2007/5), as well as on interlinkages and cross-cutting issues (E/CN.17/2007/6).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 26 February, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and the United States of America.

B. Agenda and organization of work

5. At its 1st meeting, on 26 February 2007, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.17/IPM/2007/1 and Corr.1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation:
   (a) Energy for sustainable development;
   (b) Industrial development;
   (c) Air pollution/atmosphere;
   (d) Climate change.
3. Other matters.
4. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting.

6. At the same meeting, the Meeting approved the accreditation of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries to participate as observers in its current session.

7. Also at the 1st meeting, it was agreed that the candidate for Vice-Chairman endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Brazil), would act in that capacity during the Meeting, until his formal election at the beginning of the Commission's fifteenth session. The Meeting was then informed that the Vice-Chairman, Alain Edouard Traoré (Burkina Faso), would also serve as Rapporteur of the fifteenth session of the Commission and its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting.

C. Proceedings of the session

8. At its 1st meeting, on 26 February 2007, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland, made a statement on the outcome of the International Seminar on the Hydrogen Economy for Sustainable Development, held in Reykjavik, on 28 and 29 September 2006.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (who spoke also on behalf of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) and the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific made statements presenting the outcomes of their deliberations related to policy options and possible actions to address region-specific obstacles to, and constraints on, meeting commitments related to the thematic cluster on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change.

10. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting heard statements from the representatives of major groups on their views on policy options and possible actions relevant to the themes of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change, as contained in the note by the Secretariat (E/CN.17/2007/7) entitled "Major groups' priorities for action in energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change". Statements were made by the representatives of the Women's Environment and Development Organization, on behalf of the women's group; the Global Youth Action Network, on behalf of the children and youth group; the International Indian Treaty Council, on behalf of the indigenous peoples group; the Third World Network, on behalf of the non-governmental organizations group; Local Governments for Sustainability, on behalf of the local authorities group; the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, on behalf of the workers and trade unions group; the International Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the business and industry group; the International Council for Science, on behalf of the scientific and technological communities group; and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, on behalf of the farmers group.

11. Participation by major groups included representatives of 45 accredited organizations. Their views on policy options and possible actions relevant to the themes of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change were integrated into the thematic

discussions that were held throughout the week. Representatives from each major group were invited to make closing remarks at the conclusion of the meeting.

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 26 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the themes of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change, relating to small island developing States. The panellists were Leslie Walling, Executive Director of the Caribbean Conservation Association; Paul Fairbairn, Manager of the Community Lifelines Programme of the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission; and Tom Goreau, President of the Global Coral Reef Alliance. The Vice-Chairperson, Frances Lisson (Australia), summarized the salient points that resulted from the interactive discussion.

13. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 27 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of energy for sustainable development. The panellists were Bikash Pandey, Clean Energy Programme of Winrock, Pakistan; Shahmar Movsumov, Executive Director of the State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan and Chair of the National Committee for Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; and Hasan Qabazard, Director of the Research Division of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. The Vice-Chairperson, Frances Lisson (Australia), summarized the salient points that had resulted from the interactive discussion.

14. At its 4th meeting, on 27 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of industrial development. The panellists were Nabil Nasr, Director of the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York; and Annabella Rosenberg, member of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Argentina. The Vice-Chairmen, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Brazil) and Jiří Hlaváček (Czech Republic), summarized the salient points that had resulted from the interactive discussion.

15. At its 5th meeting, on 28 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of air pollution/atmosphere. The panellists were Hilal Raza, Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of the Hydrocarbon Institute of Pakistan; and Brian Doll, Exxon Mobil representative to and Chair of the Fuel Group of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association. The Vice-Chairpersons, Frances Lisson (Australia) and Alain Edouard Traoré (Burkina Faso), summarized the salient points that had resulted from the interactive discussion.

16. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of climate change. The panellists were José Domingos Miguez, Chair of the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism; and Richard Moss, Senior Director, United Nations Foundation Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Programme and Visiting Senior Research Scientist, Earth Systems Science Interdisciplinary Center of the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. The Vice-Chairman, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Brazil), summarized the salient points that had resulted from the interactive discussion.

17. At its 7th meeting, on 1 March, the Meeting held an interactive discussion on policy options and possible actions to address barriers and constraints in relation to interlinkages among the four thematic issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change, as well as cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation. The Vice-Chairmen, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Brazil) and Jiří Hlaváček (Czech Republic), summarized the salient points that had resulted from the interactive discussion.

18. Partnerships activities were organized at the Meeting, featuring "Partnerships in practice" interactive thematic sessions to foster discussions on practical issues, identify challenges and exchange lessons learned related to the implementation of sustainable development through partnerships. In keeping with the policy year focus on policy options and possible actions to expedite the implementation of sustainable development commitments, these partnership thematic discussions highlighted "on-the-ground" experiences from partnership practitioners. The "Partnerships in practice" interactive discussion sessions were chaired by the Vice-Chairman of the Commission at its fifteenth session, Luis Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Brazil) (for additional information on partnerships activities, see http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm).

D. Attendance

19. The Meeting was attended by representatives of 48 States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental organizations and major groups also attended.

20. The list of participants of the Meeting is contained in document E/CN.17/IPM/2007/INF.1 (see also http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/csd15_ipm.htm).

E. Documentation

21. The Meeting had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation: energy for sustainable development (E/CN.17/2007/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation: industrial development (E/CN.17/2007/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation: air pollution/atmosphere (E/CN.17/2007/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation: climate change (E/CN.17/2007/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation: interlinkages and cross-cutting issues (E/CN.17/2007/6);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on major groups' priorities for action in energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change (E/CN.17/2007/7);

(g) Letter dated 26 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the International Seminar on the Hydrogen Economy for Sustainable Development, held in Reykjavik on 28 and 29 September 2006 (E/CN.17/2007/8).

II. Chairman's draft negotiating text[1]

22. The Meeting decided to transmit to the Commission the following draft negotiating text:

[*Title to be negotiated*]

The Commission on Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, particularly its principle 7 on common but differentiated responsibilities, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Reaffirming the continuing need to ensure a balance among economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resources base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

Emphasizing that strong interlinkages exist among the four issues in the thematic cluster and policies and measures aimed at one issue may have co-benefits for other issues,

Emphasizing that the cross-cutting issues as defined by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session are vital in addressing the interlinkages in this thematic cluster,

Noting the outcomes of the fourteenth session of the Commission and the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for its fifteenth session, in particular the identification of obstacles and constraints, as well as lessons learned and best practices in implementation in the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change,

[1] Prepared by the Chairman of the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61.

Further noting the previously agreed provisions and decisions in relation to the thematic cluster,

Decides to call upon Governments and the United Nations system, working in partnership with major groups and other stakeholders, to take action as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

[*Title to be negotiated*]

A. Energy for sustainable development

1. Energy is crucial for sustainable development.

2. Given that fossil fuels will continue to play a dominant role in the energy mix in the decades to come, the development and use of advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies should be increased. More efforts should go into supporting the further development and dissemination of those technologies.

3. Diversify energy supply and develop advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies, hydro-fuels and biofuels and their transfer to developing countries on concessional terms, as mutually agreed. With a sense of urgency, substantially increase the global share of renewable energy supply, recognize the role of national and voluntary regional targets, as well as initiatives, where they exist, and ensure that energy policies are supportive to developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty, and regularly evaluate available data to review progress to this end. In that context:

(a) Access to energy is crucial to economic and social development and the eradication of poverty;

(b) Integrate energy access into national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies, development planning frameworks, and on the donor side, into development cooperation policies;

(c) Encourage the integration of diversified energy policies into national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies or other national planning frameworks;

(d) Support clear actions and measures for the expansion of energy services to the poor, in particular in rural and remote areas in developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(e) Ensure access to modern energy services and advanced energy technologies, using the full range of available energy sources and options;

(f) Expand the use of cleaner fuels for heating and cooking, including liquefied petroleum gas;

(g) Expand the use of renewable sources of energy, as appropriate, including biofuels, hydropower, geothermal, wind, solar and other forms of renewable energy;

(h) Further develop energy storage and transmission infrastructure, including pipelines and regional electricity interconnections;

(i) Support efforts to increase the share of renewable energy in accordance with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and national plans, where applicable;

(j) Facilitate public participation in and understanding of energy policies and practices;

(k) Increase the involvement of women in the planning, designing and implementation of energy programmes;

(l) Promote networking among centres of excellence on energy for sustainable development;

(m) Strengthen support for public and private partnerships in energy research and development, including cleaner and advanced fossil-fuel technologies and renewable energy;

(n) Accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy-efficiency and energy-conservation technologies;

(o) Encourage the transfer and dissemination of cleaner technologies, including cleaner and advanced fossil-fuel technologies;

(p) Move forward rapidly with initiatives for full-scale demonstration and deployment of carbon capture and storage and enhanced oil recovery technologies;

(q) Expand the sustainable production and use of bioenergy;

(r) Strengthen support for the transfer of environmentally sound and affordable technologies through North-South and South-South cooperation;

(s) Encourage international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility to expand their support for energy efficiency, renewable energy and cleaner and advanced fossil-fuel technology and facilitate access to funding for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(t) Support transition to the use of cleaner liquid and gaseous fossil fuel, including through creating appropriate investment conditions for trade in liquefied natural gas and develop a global market in liquefied natural gas to increase access to energy;

(u) Remove environmentally harmful and market-distorting subsidies;

(v) Enhance investment in the development of the resource base, including fossil fuels, biofuels, renewable energy and other sources of energy;

(w) Improve energy efficiency in the hydrocarbon industry, in particular through the reduction of gas venting and flaring;

(x) Strengthen the modernization, rehabilitation and capacity expansion of the electric power sector through energy efficiency improvements;

(y) Improve productivity and better utilization of generation capacities through co-generation, fuel switching, interconnection or national electricity grids, the establishment of power pools and greater electricity trade;

(z) Increase support for international information-sharing and benchmarking to reduce energy costs and to enhance efficiency in energy-intensive industries;

(aa) Support the establishment of energy service companies through capacity-building at the national level;

(bb) Strengthen building codes and support for improving insulation and the efficiency of energy use in commercial and residential buildings;

(cc) Encourage policies and regulatory environments that include energy efficiency in the power sector, and energy efficiency standards and certification;

(dd) Increase international support for national efforts to adopt standards and labelling for energy-efficient appliances and consumer equipment;

(ee) Implement public procurement and demonstration projects that put energy efficiency into practice;

(ff) Raise consumer awareness and participation in energy-efficiency and energy-savings campaigns;

(gg) Support the functioning of national energy markets;

(hh) Strengthening national and regional energy-efficiency programmes and support investment in, and the transfer of, modern energy-efficiency technologies;

(ii) Mobilize additional financial resources, including by the private sector and through microcredit and innovative funding means for renewable energy and energy efficiency;

(jj) Strengthen South-South cooperation, including between energy exporting and energy importing developing countries;

(kk) Mobilize financial resources from all sources and explore innovative financing and create positive investment climate at all levels to attract private capital for energy projects, including higher shares of development assistance;

(ll) Utilize and support energy for sustainable development partnerships;

(mm) Encourage the creation of an enabling environment for investment by removing barriers and consistently developing/strengthening appropriate frameworks;

(nn) Support the World Bank Investment Framework for Clean Energy and Development.

B. Industrial development

4. Industrial development is crucial for sustained economic growth, eradicating poverty and employment creation, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. There is a mutually reinforcing relationship between industrial development, social advancement and environmental protection.

5. In that context, countries have the right to decide their own industrial development strategies, on the basis of the level, rate and pace of their development as well as their capacity.

6. Sustainable natural resources use offers an essential path to reduce costs, increase competitiveness and employment, and reduce environmental degradation.

7. National Government policies and actions may include the following actions:

(a) Formulate national policy frameworks that create an enabling environment for industrial development and diversification, including through appropriate regulations and enhancing domestic environmental governance by creating incentives for the adoption of improved environmental management practices and environmentally sound technologies;

(b) Develop and strengthen the productive capacity of developing countries by scaling up the technical and financial resource flows for basic infrastructure and facilitating foreign direct investment;

(c) Encourage United Nations continuing efforts to assist developing countries in building capacities for environmental impact assessments;

(d) Develop policies that focus on the utilization of marine resources, aquaculture industries, seafood processing and trade-investment promotion, especially in small island developing States;

(e) Strengthen investment in capacity-building, education and skills development to enhance the industrial skill base, to improve employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women and youth, and to reduce any negative social impacts, when applicable, related to industrial restructuring;

(f) Support technological upgrading for sustainable industrial development, including through building capacity of standards, testing and certification bodies, and stronger industry-academia collaboration on research and development;

(g) Promote more sustainable patterns of production and consumption, with developed countries taking the lead, including through more efficient use of natural resources, pollution reduction, waste minimization and recycling, as well as through education and awareness-raising to change consumer behaviour towards more sustainable lifestyles;

(h) Promote ecotourism in developing countries, including in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(i) Provide technical, managerial and financial support to small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular for the adoption of more efficient production methods, including through enhanced involvement of financial institutions;

(j) Promote innovation, entrepreneurship and venture capital financing;

(k) Enhance access to credit, including microfinancing, to small-scale entrepreneurs, including women.

8. Industrial development is closely linked to the further integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international trade. In that context:

(a) Improve market access for products of importance to developing countries and work towards a successful completion of the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations;

(b) Support trade-related capacity-building, including for customs procedures simplification, trade promotion, product certification and quality control, so that products can meet international standards;

(c) Support technology transfer on favourable terms and mobilize financial resources for sustainable industrial development in developing countries;

(d) Strengthen North-South and South-South technology cooperation, including between research and development institutions in developed and developing countries, with sharing of intellectual property and know-how;

(e) Enhance corporate environmental and social responsibility, taking into account International Labour Organization core labour standards;

(f) Greater emphasis should be placed by the United Nations system on promotional and information-dissemination activities relating to investment opportunities in developing countries.

C. Air pollution/atmosphere

9. Air pollution is a major threat to human health and the environment that should be addressed in an integrated manner at the national, regional and international levels.

(a) Integrate reduction of indoor air pollution into national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategy papers and other national development plans, emphasizing access by women and the poor to clean cooking and heating technologies;

(b) Accelerate the switch from traditional biomass to cleaner fuels, including liquefied petroleum gas, for cooking and heating, and support efforts to disseminate improved cooking stoves;

(c) Address gender-specific aspects of air pollution and improve women's access to modern energy services;

(d) Improve knowledge concerning the health effects and sources of indoor air pollution, and provide financial resources to prevent adverse health impacts due to indoor air pollution in developing countries;

(e) Replicate and scale up successful approaches and best practices on indoor air pollution, including the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air;

(f) Promote air quality standards to control emissions from industry and transport;

(g) Improve control of emissions from different sources to mitigate air pollution;

(h) Enhance cooperation and technical assistance to control air pollution from gas flaring and venting;

(i) Support the Marrakech Process to address issues of sustainable production and consumption;

(j) Reduce air pollution in urban areas through improved and comprehensive land-use planning;

(k) Improve urban air quality through the utilization of cleaner fuels, such as natural gas, for vehicles and thermo-power generation;

(l) Expand the use of cleaner technologies, including renewable energy technologies;

(m) Assist developing countries in the transfer of efficient and environmentally sound technologies, traffic management know-how and related capacity-building;

(n) Implement the World Health Organization Global Air Quality Guidelines as the basis for national air quality standards;

(o) Promote public and mass transport systems;

(p) Strengthen vehicle inspection procedures and improve maintenance;

(q) Promote use of low emission, energy-efficient vehicles through market incentives;

(r) Support the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles in phasing out the remaining use of leaded gasoline, and work to reduce sulphur content in fuels;

(s) Increase efforts to control emissions resulting from the extraction and refining of oil;

(t) Assist developing countries in building capacity for monitoring, measuring and assessing the impacts of air pollution, including health impacts;

(u) Enhance capacity-building, strengthen institutions and involve all relevant stakeholders in the work of improving air quality, including in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(v) Improve compilation and analysis of data in monitoring air pollution and human health;

(w) Increase cooperation on sound and updated scientific knowledge;

(x) Promote training to improve methodologies for assessing atmospheric pollution;

(y) Strengthen systematic observation of the Earth's atmosphere by means of ground-based and satellite monitoring systems;

(z) Support efforts to reduce air pollutants from aviation and maritime sources;

(aa) Assist countries with significant desert areas in building capacity for early warning and monitoring of dust and sandstorms;

(bb) Enforce international control over illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances, including through the provision of resources and appropriate technology transfer;

(cc) Involve international financial institutions and international financial mechanisms in efforts to address air and atmospheric pollution;

(dd) Enhance regional cooperation to reduce air pollution, including through joint research and monitoring, and technical assistance;

(ee) Encourage the sharing of regional experiences to address transboundary air pollution, such as the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;

(ff) Transfer affordable, efficient and environmentally sound technologies on favourable terms, as mutually agreed, to mitigate air pollution;

(gg) Encourage Governments to adopt appropriate regulation to mitigate air pollution.

D. Climate change

10. Climate change is not just an environmental issue; it is an issue firmly placed in the context of sustainable development and it requires the urgent attention of the international community. Decisions taken are meant to complement but not duplicate the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. In that context:

(a) Enhance technology cooperation and information-sharing on climate-friendly and low-carbon technologies;

(b) Strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in research, development and demonstration initiatives;

(c) Support and accelerate the development, deployment and diffusion of low carbon energy technologies, including energy-efficiency technologies, renewable-energy technologies, and cleaner and advanced fossil-fuel technologies;

(d) Increase financial incentives for the use of advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil-fuel technologies, energy-efficiency technologies and renewable energy technologies;

(e) Move towards a longer-term strategy, including strengthening the carbon market;

(f) Policies and actions should be based on the principles of sustainable development, and should recognize that poverty eradication and economic development are the overriding priorities of developing countries;

(g) Future action must be in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as relevant principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

(h) Implement climate policies and actions that yield co-benefits, including improved public health, in the areas of energy efficiency, air pollution and industrial development;

(i) Promote fuel efficiency in the transport sector;

(j) Enhance carbon sinks through improved land-use management, afforestation and reforestation;

(k) Encourage participatory approaches to address climate change, including regional cooperation and partnerships, as well as public-private partnerships;

(l) Promote the participation of the private sector in combating climate change;

(m) Involve women in all aspects of decision-making relating to adaptation and mitigation, including with respect to disaster-risk reduction and choice of adaptation technologies;

(n) Encourage the integration of climate policies and actions into national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies with respect to both adaptation and mitigation;

(o) Mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation into development cooperation activities;

(p) Improve access to the financial and technological assistance available for adaptation, especially by developing countries;

(q) Integrate lessons learned and experiences accumulated under disaster-reduction activities into adaptation planning and response measures;

(r) Increase community resilience to climate change-related disasters by protecting natural resources, including through such activities as mangrove restoration, reforestation and rangeland rehabilitation;

(s) Build capacity to enable prediction of the timing, frequency and scale of impacts, as well as training for technical capabilities to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change;

(t) Promote the dissemination of studies on the long-term impacts of climate change with a view to informing policy goals;

(u) Support research and analysis of specific impacts of climate change in different regions through observation, information-sharing and technical training;

(v) Strengthen systematic climate observation networks by enhancing the research and dissemination of related information;

(w) Enhance capacity-building at the national level in all areas related to climate change;

(x) Identify new and additional financial initiatives specifically dedicated to climate change in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(y) Develop and strengthen national institutional capacities for participation in the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation, where appropriate;

(z) Strengthen existing funding mechanisms for adaptation activities, as well as improving accessibility of developing countries to these funds, inter alia, for economic diversification to minimize adverse impacts of response measures;

(aa) Utilize insurance markets to minimize the risks associated with climate change impacts;

(bb) Support early warning, risk management and disaster reduction and response measures for developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable, such as small island developing States and least developed countries.

E. Interlinkages and cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation

11. An integrated approach to the four thematic issues, addressing in a balanced way the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development, would enhance effectiveness and assist in the realization of co-benefits of policy action. Cross-cutting issues need to be mainstreamed into policy approaches, programmes and development cooperation activities. The means of implementation are critical to turning commitments into actions. In that context:

(a) Reinforce efforts to implement commitments in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, notably early and full realization of the 0.7 per cent official development assistance target;

(b) Ensure greater access to sources of finance for developing countries, including through means of leveraging public and private resources;

(c) Provide better access to funds and simplified reporting procedures for small island developing States and least developed countries under multilateral funding mechanisms;

(d) Develop innovative sources of finance for implementing measures in the four thematic areas in an integrated manner;

(e) Enhance adequate financial resources to support African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the effective implementation of national sustainable development strategies;

(f) Promote technical capacity-building and know-how, including through support from multilateral financial institutions;

(g) Establish financial mechanisms, including disbursal of loans with extended repayment time frames, microfinance schemes and revolving funds;

(h) Strengthen arrangements and incentives for technology transfer on favourable terms to developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, taking into account the need to balance rewards to innovators and the need for affordable access to technologies by developing countries;

(i) Increase investments in research and development to develop new, advanced and cleaner energy technologies and other key technologies to address implementation in the thematic cluster;

(j) Strengthen technology cooperation, including research and development collaboration, on technologies of importance to addressing implementation in the thematic cluster;

(k) Promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as regional and subregional cooperation;

(l) The international agencies to provide greater support to South-South and triangular technology cooperation and sharing;

(m) Support through technical assistance the strengthening of scientific and technological capabilities in developing countries, including through establishment of world class centres of excellence and "virtual universities";

(n) Promote effective and full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building;

(o) Mainstream the issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change into national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies, and enhance access to energy as a means of achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

(p) Strengthen governance at all levels and in both the public and private sectors to advance progress on the sustainable development agenda in the four thematic areas;

(q) Build public-sector capacity for integrated planning and coordination of policymaking in the area of sustainable development across all relevant departments and ministries;

(r) Build partnerships at all levels and involve all interested and committed stakeholders in addressing implementation challenges in this thematic cluster;

(s) Involve the private sector more actively in implementation, including through the creation of an enabling environment for private-sector investment and the enhancement of corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability;

(t) Recognize the importance of sustainable patterns of production and consumption and, in this context, support the Marrakech process and its task forces;

(u) Recognize and utilize effectively the knowledge and experience of the nine major groups as identified in Agenda 21 with respect to natural resource management, as well as the need for their effective participation in decision-making processes;

(v) Encourage the creation of an enabling environment for investment by removing barriers and consistently developing/strengthening appropriate frameworks;

(w) Strengthen educational initiatives in sustainable development in general, including in the context of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, as well as scholarship programmes and educational exchanges;

(x) Improve understanding about the linkages between economic, social and environmental aspects of lifestyles and individual behaviour through strengthening the role of education and raising awareness on sustainable development;

(y) Enhance gender mainstreaming in all areas of sustainable development.

F. Review and follow-up

12. Review and follow-up progress in the implementation of decisions taken by the Commission at its fifteenth session during one or two days at the sessions of the Commission to be held in 2010/2011 and 2014/2015.

III. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting

23. At its 9th meeting, on 2 March 2007, the Meeting had before it its draft report, as contained in document E/CN.17/IPM/2007/L.2.

24. At the same meeting, the Meeting adopted the report and took note of the Chairman's draft negotiating text for transmittal to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifteenth session (see para. 22 above).

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Other matters: proposed programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium

Draft programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft programme of work in the field of sustainable development for the biennium 2008-2009, which is contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, decided that the programme narratives of the programme budget fascicles shall be identical to the biennial programme plan. In this connection, the Assembly, in its resolution 61/235, approved the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009, which has incorporated the programme narrative, namely the objectives, expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and indicators of achievement of the sustainable development subprogramme.

2. The draft programme of work, which includes information on outputs, has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 4 (Sustainable development) of programme 9 (Economic and social affairs) of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

3. The Commission is invited to take note of the programme narrative and review the proposed outputs to be included in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, which will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

* E/CN.17/2007/1.

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Annex

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement

Objective of the Organization: to accelerate the implementation of sustainable development goals, targets and commitments in accordance with internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective review of and agreement on key sustainable development challenges and priority actions of the multi-year programme of work to advance implementation in the areas of agriculture, rural development, drought, desertification and Africa, including related cross-cutting issues	(a) Increased level of satisfaction by Member States with the support and servicing for the intergovernmental process, as well as an increased level of satisfaction of Member States with activities related to consensus-building, the functioning of the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the partnership fair, the Learning Centre and the participation of major groups
(b) Increased availability of information on policy options, practical measures and concrete actions needed for the adoption and implementation of sustainable development at the local, national, regional and international levels	(b) (i) Increased number of inputs by Member States into databases on case studies, partnerships, best practices and lessons learned (ii) Increased number of visits to and downloads from the website of the Division for Sustainable Development
(c) Enhanced technical, human and institutional capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement actions and national strategies for sustainable development in energy, water and natural resources	(c) (i) Increased number of countries expressing satisfaction with advisory, technical cooperation and capacity-building services to achieve their sustainable development goals (ii) Increased number of national staff trained, resulting in enhanced knowledge and skills

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives on the assumption that Governments and international institutions give priority to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), and other commitments made during the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (the Mauritius Strategy).

Outputs/activities

During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget)

(i) General Assembly — Second Committee:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: meetings of the Second Committee, including informal consultations (40);

b. Parliamentary documentation: follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy (3); follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2); report on new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme (1); report on the International Decade for Action, "Water for life", 2005-2015 (1); report on the International Year of Sanitation (1);

(ii) Economic and Social Council:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: meetings of the Council (8); meetings of informal consultations (18);

b. Parliamentary documentation: reports of the Commission on Sustainable Development (2);

(iii) Commission on Sustainable Development:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: meetings of the Commission and in-session drafting groups (200); meetings of the Commission's Bureau and related informal consultations (14);

b. Parliamentary documentation: background paper: summary information on partnerships (1); background papers on issues to be included in the Commission's work programme for 2008-2009 (10); background papers on regional water and sanitation operator partnerships (3); major group papers for the Commission (10); notes on the meeting of the Bureau of the Commission (10); overview report of progress towards sustainable development: a review of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (1); report on partnerships for sustainable development (1); report on progress in implementation of decisions of the Commission on water and sanitation (1); reports on review and on policy options on agriculture, land, rural development,

drought, desertification and Africa (10); report on review of implementation of the Mauritius Strategy focusing on the thematic cluster of issues to be reviewed by the Commission (1); report to the Commission on the programme of work and the strategic framework of the Division for Sustainable Development (1); reports on regional implementation meetings (5);

(iv) Ad hoc expert groups: expert group meeting on a 10-year framework of sustainable consumption and production in the Russian Federation and Eastern Europe (1); expert group meeting on a 10-year framework of sustainable consumption and production in the Middle East (1); expert group meeting on biofuels and agriculture in developing countries: land use, trade, technology and South-South cooperation (1); expert group meeting on cross-border energy trade and infrastructure (1); expert group meeting on facilitating the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy (1); expert group meeting on fuel economy in the transport sector (1); expert group meeting on innovative finance and policies to address themes to be considered by the Commission at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions (1); expert group meetings on national sustainable development strategies (2); expert group meeting on policies for rural electrification (1); expert group meeting on policy relevance of indicators of sustainable development (1); expert group meeting on rural land reforms in Africa: review, prospects and challenges (1); expert group meeting on sustainable consumption and production patterns: delinking economic growth and environmental degradation (1); expert group meeting on water and sanitation (1); major group discussions at the Commission (2);

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget)

(i) **Recurrent publications**: *Energy and Transport Newsletter* (2); innovation briefing notes (6); *Natural Resources Forum* (quarterly) (8);

(ii) **Non-recurrent publications**: A forward looking approach to implementation: report of the third international forum on partnerships for sustainable development (1); advanced and cleaner energy technologies (1); fuel economy in the transport sector (1); innovative finance and policies for sustainable development (biennial), proceedings of expert group meetings on themes to be considered by the Commission (1); measures for the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy (1); monitoring national sustainable development strategies — country experiences and the way forward (1); partnerships in action: a regional perspective on implementation (5); partnerships trend report (1); policy issues relating to carbon dioxide capture and storage (1); strengthening linkages between the agriculture and tourism industries in small island developing States (1); trends in sustainable development: a focus on Africa (1); trends in sustainable development: agriculture, land, rural development, drought and desertification (1); water operators partnerships (1);

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits: brochure for the fourth cycle of the Commission (1); brochure on major groups (1); brochure on partnerships for sustainable development (1); Commission press kits (2);

(iv) Special events: international forum on partnerships for sustainable development (1); partnerships fairs, learning centres and side events at Commission sessions (6);

(v) Technical material: Commission on Sustainable Development update online (6); development and maintenance of the database on sustainable consumption and production (1); development, maintenance and updating of the Commission's case studies database (1); development, maintenance and update of the small island developing States net website (1); guidelines for major groups' participation in the Commission (2); maintenance and update of the partnership-, major groups and national information databases (1); partnerships for sustainable development CD-ROM (1); technical paper on indicators for sustainable development (1); translation of the website of the Division for Sustainable Development (1); update, development and maintenance of the Division's website (1);

(vi) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: inter-agency meetings for coordinating the work of the United Nations in the area of sustainable development: (i) UN-Water (4); (ii) UN-Energy (4); and (iii) ocean-related issues (2) (10);

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget and extrabudgetary)

(i) Advisory services: expert advisory services, at the request of Governments and in cooperation with United Nations agencies and regional commissions, will be provided to developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, for capacity-building and/or strengthening in such areas as formulation of national strategies for sustainable development, indicators for monitoring progress in the implementation of sustainable development strategies, reporting and indicators, facilitating partnerships for sustainable development, strengthening of institutions and providing support to multi-stakeholder consultative processes that promote sustainable development, as well as processes related to sustainable management of freshwater and energy for sustainable development, with a focus on energy efficiency and new and renewable energy resources and advanced fossil fuel technologies as well as, inter alia, natural resources development;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: training seminars and/or workshops for and with national policymakers in developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition with a view to strengthening national capabilities in all areas of sustainable development. These include, among other things, national cleaner technologies strategies, environmental management accounting, integrated water resources management, and energy for sustainable development;

(iii) Field projects: provision of technical services to Member States under country, regional and interregional technical cooperation projects in the area of sustainable development supported from all sources of funding.

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Letter dated 30 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the summary and conclusions from the ministerial conference on "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: innovative policies and financing instruments for the European Union's southern and eastern neighbours", held under the German Presidency of the European Union in Berlin on 19 April 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

(*Signed*) Thomas **Matussek**
Permanent Representative

* E/CN.17/2007/1.

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Annex to the letter dated 30 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ministerial conference held under the German Presidency of the European Union

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: innovative policies and financing instruments for the European Union's southern and eastern neighbours

Berlin, 19 April 2007

Summary and conclusions

The ministerial conference on "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: innovative policies and financing instruments for the European Union's southern and eastern neighbours", held under the German Presidency of the European Union, convened delegations from 35 countries, including 15 countries represented at the ministerial level, on 19 April 2007 in Berlin.

Recognizing that the world today is entering a new energy era requiring global action and cooperation, the Conference expressed growing concern over energy security, climate change and access of the poor to modern energy services. Energy security is becoming a central priority for all nations as a factor in healthy economic growth and both internal and external stability. But energy security is about more than just securing future sources of oil. It includes the diversification of energy sources, increasing domestic supply to meet the future growth in demand and strengthening efforts to reduce such demand.

Concerned about the findings on global warming and climate change and related adverse impacts such as heat waves, droughts, floods and heavy precipitation events that are described by the latest scientific findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as the consequences that these impacts will have for security due to increased competition for access to energy and water sources;

Committed to sustaining our natural environment and thereby the basis for economic growth and social welfare by limiting the global average temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius;

Aware of recent economic analyses, in particular that of Sir Nicholas Stern, indicating that the benefits of strong global early action on climate change far outweigh the economic costs of action, and also that the adverse impacts of climate change will hamper economic and social development in all countries and endanger the recent gains in poverty reduction in developing countries;

Acknowledging the need for further expansion of renewable energy, energy efficiency and access to energy;

Recognizing the efforts already made in the European Union's neighbouring countries to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency in their own countries;

Considering the increasing interdependence between energy exporting and energy consuming countries and the growing awareness in the European Union's neighbouring countries of the need for a secure and sustainable energy supply;

Acknowledging the strong contribution that renewable energy and energy efficiency make today, and will make in the future, to climate protection, energy security, job creation and economic development, particularly in rural areas;

Taking into account the dynamic growth of renewable energy in Europe and a number of the European Union's neighbouring countries and the innovative character of the industry;

The Conference discussed best practices and possible options for the future role of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the context of the main energy policy goals of sustainable development, climate change, security of energy supply and competitiveness.

The following conclusions should serve as guidance for the future direction of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and also for international endeavours, e.g. the forthcoming fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development:

1. The Conference underlines the considerable potential of renewable energy and energy efficiency to help reduce energy consumption, diversify energy sources and foster sustainable development, thus providing a new vision for the European Neighbourhood Policy.

2. The Conference further encourages neighbouring countries of the European Union to support the Union's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 per cent by 2020 compared with 1990 levels and by 30 per cent provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and more advanced developing countries adequately contribute in accordance with their responsibilities and respective capabilities.

3. The Conference recalls the binding target of a 20 per cent share of renewables in overall European Union energy consumption by 2020, and a 20 per cent increase in energy efficiency by the same date, and encourages neighbouring countries of the European Union to set their targets according to their capabilities. In order to meet these targets, appropriate policy instruments such as feed-in tariffs, quotas, portfolio standards and blending rules, green certificates, pool models, tax incentives, grid connection regulations and guidelines, building and energy standards and labelling should be considered. The current practice of case-by-case tendering in neighbouring countries could be replaced by a generalized promotion policy.

4. To this end, the Conference calls for long-term policies and measures and invites the European Union to support its neighbouring countries in increasing the use of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency.

5. Taking into consideration the growing demand for energy and the potential for renewable energies and efficiency gains, cross-border expansion of the electricity grid will require an intelligent European Neighborhood Policy-wide grid infrastructure. This would allow better integration of renewable energy resources, i.e. from hydropower, wind, solar energy and cogeneration units. The Conference particularly underlines the need for the large-scale promotion of promising

technology applications such as solar-thermal, paving the way for a bigger share of renewable energy in heating and cooling.

6. The Conference takes note of the prerequisites industry has identified for facilitating investment in renewable energies and energy efficiency:

- Fair pricing mechanisms;
- Grid access;
- Simplified administrative procedures;
- Public acceptance of renewable energy and energy efficiency policies and measures that are "long-term, loud and legal".

7. The Conference equally emphasizes creating an enabling environment based on a regulatory framework including cost-reflecting tariffs, grid connection agreements, building codes, standards and labelling and awareness-raising, in order to realize the great potential and economic benefits of energy savings and efficiency.

8. The Conference has noted the current common practice of energy subsidization with a social policy purpose. This practice significantly reduces the competitiveness of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Policies that maintain the necessary support for energy access without hindering the growth of renewable energy and energy efficiency should be encouraged.

9. The Conference recognizes the significant potential that renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies offer for innovation and employment. In order to profit from these for their own development, the neighbouring countries are encouraged to build up local industries, which will also help equilibrate the renewable energy technology markets and bring costs down further.

10. The Conference recognizes the need for significant financial resources, both public and private, to be invested in renewable energy. This should include the use of innovative financing mechanisms, including small credit systems for renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The Conference recognizes the benefits that the flexible mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI), offer for the implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The option of using CDM and JI should not be limited to the first Kyoto period but extended beyond 2012.

11. Concerted global action to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency is needed. Cooperation on the optimization of national support schemes, exchange of best practices and technical progress through initiatives and partnerships such as REN21,[1] REEEP,[2] MEDREP,[3] JREC,[4] GVEP[5] and EUEI[6] are important in this context.

[1] REN21 — Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century.
[2] REEEP — Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership.
[3] MEDREP — Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme.
[4] JREC — Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition.
[5] GVEP — Global Village Energy Partnership.
[6] EUEI — European Union Energy Initiative.

12. The Conference recognizes the important role business and civil society play in the development of strategies to effectively move forward renewable energy and energy efficiency and their implementation.

An effective and internationally coordinated policy is needed to accelerate the development of both renewable energy and energy efficiency markets. Efforts should be channelled into finding ways and means of creating favourable conditions for investment in neighbouring countries. Cooperation should be enhanced between the European Union and its neighbouring countries to establish a framework for economic and financial partnership, based on market economic principles and the integration of economies that takes into account the needs of all countries.